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HARVEY & STANLEY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Ecological Consultants

WATERWAYS PLANNING STUDY
SELECTED EAST ZONE CREEKS

Prepared for

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Prepared by

HARVEY & STANLEY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Summary Report and Field Notes

December 1981

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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5750 ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY
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Yerba Buena Creek (1.5 mi.)

Yerba Buena Creek is an essentially unaltered, intermittent stream flowing through an oak woodland plant community. The dominant plant species include live oaks, california bay, holly-leaved cherry, and california blackberry. The live oaks are thought to be between 75 and 100 years old. No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

Land uses surrounding the creek include the college campus of Evergreen Community College to the north, along with some private range land, and the area to the south is devoted to residential housing.

Piedmont Creek (0.4 mi.)

This slow-moving stream has been excavated within the last few years resulting in the present sparce vegetation; however, some weedy species are slowing beginning to revegetate the channel. The dominant plants include annual grasses, sweet fennel, russian thistle, and other annual weeds. No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

Piedmont Creek in this part of the county runs through an industrial area, with a residential tract to the east of the Sinclair Freeway (680).

Tularcitos Creek (1.3 mi.)

Tularcitos Creek has also been excavated within the past few years, resulting in relatively sparce vegetation. The existing plant species are limited to winter annual grasses, dallas grass, water smartweed, and cattails. No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

This entire reach of creek flows through a residential tract.

Sierra Creek (1.3 mi.)

This intermittent stream has also been previously excavated from the Ruskin School (Sta. 49+00) to the downstream end of the survey. The north and east banks are beginning to revegetate with weeds. At the lower end of the creek, the banks are still rather barren, but the channel bottom does have some vegetation. The dominant plants are annual grasses, dallas grass, sweet fennel, and other weeds. No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

This portion of Sierra Creek flows through a residential tract.

Los Coches Creek (1.3 mi.)

With the exception of the upstream-most 700 feet, this entire creek has been excavated. The existing vegetation is sparce and restricted to weeds. The dominant plant species include winter annual grasses, dallas grass, watercress, and other annual weeds. Noteworthy trees are the western sycamores at Piedmont Road crossing and the willows above the end of the survey. No rare or endangered species were observed along the creek.

The downstream portion of the creek flows through an industrial area, a business district, and upstream portion passes through a residential area.

Calera Creek (1.3 mi.)

Virtually all (with the exception of 500 feet) of this creek has been excavated. Only a short segment of the downstream end passes through an industrial zone, whereas the majority of the creek flows through residential areas. The undisturbed 500 feet extends west of the Sinclair Freeway (680). This portion of the creek supports some california buckeye, cottonwoods, and willows. The dominant plants along the creek are primarily weeds, however, and include winter annual grasses, watercress, and other annual weeds. No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

Fowler Creek (0.35 mi.)

This reach of Fowler Creek flows through land currently devoted to annual agriculture. The creek is an intermittent stream which has a very shallow channel in this area. Oak woodland, riparian, and grassland are the three habitat types found along the creek. The dominant plant species include california buckeye, live oak, blue elderberry, valley oak, coyote brush, milk thistle, poison oak, and sagebrush. No rare or endangered plant were observed along the creek.

Coyote Creek (4.7 mi.)

This section of Coyote Creek includes three habitat types, salt marsh, freshwater marsh, and riparian plant communities. Most of the survey area has seen some disturbance by man, with the upstream areas from Montague Expressway northward having been affected more recently than the downstream areas. The 2.5 mi. reach between Route 237 and Montague Expressway is an excellent example of riparian habitat. Several large western sycamores are clustered in the northern end of this reach. The reach of creek south (upstream) of Montague Expressway has been excavated more recently than other areas. This excavation has significantly reduced the vegetation in the channel; little or no vegetation exists on the slopes, and only the bottom supports valuable vegetation. The dominant plants in this area are largely restricted to freshwater marsh such as cattails, winter annual grasses, smilo grass, and weeds.

The dominant plants of the riparian plant community include cottonwood, boxelder, willows, blue elderberry, western sycamore, and california buckeye. The northern-most section of the study area is salt marsh, dominated by cattails, california bulrush, and water smartweed.

Land uses surrounding the creek include the San Jose-Santa Clara Sewage Treatment Plant to the west, and a pumping station and grazing land to the east in the northern third of the study area. The land between Route 237 and Montague Expressway is devoted to agriculture on both sides in the north, and industrial uses on both sides in the south. The upstream (southern) third of the study area has industries on both sides of the creek.

No rare or endangered plants were observed along the creek.

Upper Silver Creek (7.2 mi.)

The downstream reaches of this creek (up to station 63+00) have been channelized. From station 63+00 the creek is relatively natural and undisturbed. The dominant plants in the channelized reaches are weeds, annual grasses, salt bush, and russian thistle. The natural upstream reaches are dominated by valley and live oaks, california bay, willows, cottonwood, and grasses. The natural reaches have particularly high biological value, especially compared to the downstream reaches. No rare or endangered plants were found along the creek.

The surrounding land uses include urban, residential tracts surrounding the downstream reaches, with grazing being the primary rural land use around the natural reaches.

Fowler Creek (1.5 mi.)

The lower portion of this creek is physically divided into two sections, the lower two-thirds shows no physical evidence of the creek--water merely sheet-flows through a walnut orchard. The upper one-third is a dry streambed, because a few years previously the stream was diverted.

The dominant plants include live oak, blue elderbery, california buckeye, coyote brush, sagebrush, and weeds. No rare or endangered plants were found along the creek.

All the surrounding land is in agriculture--walnut orchards.

Project # 141-01 Sally Casey

Bring attention to:

1. S.E. corner Confluence of Piedmont & Berryessa Ck:
5 clumps Arundo donax - Giant reed.

2. Tularcitos Creek W. side Hwy 680 Ice plant hanging down over upper culvert - not too bad yet

3. Pampas grass N bank of Sierra Creek 65+00 - 68+00 seeding from residence.

4. Los Coches Cr. E side Hwy 680 Ice plant covering muc of culvert opening under freeway. Needs cutting back!

5. Los Coches Cr. Between Temple & Calaveras, ivy on east side from residence should be cut bac Also invasive ice plant on So. side of Calaveras just to the east.

6. Giant Reed at So. end of Milpitas pumping station

7. A clump of Pampas grass So. of Montague Expwy.

8. " " " " " " " Charcot Bridge 1 block on east side

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Coyote Creek (4.7 mi)

The survey of this creek covers salt marsh, fresh water marsh and riparian communities. Most of the area has been manipulated, the upper elevations from Montague Expressway south more recently than the lower elevations from Montague expressway north. To the west is the San Jose Sewage Plant; to the east is a pumping station and grazing area.

Between route 237 and Montague Expressway is an outstanding two and a half mile riparian corridor. Of ~~particular~~ importance are a number of sycamore trees clustered particularly in the northern sector. This area has agricultural portions in the north and industr portions in the south on both sides.

The section south of Montague Expressway has more recen ly been dredged with vegetation reappearing only in the central or bottom portion, the banks remaining bare. This is the fresh water marsh area. It will, given enough time, return to a riparian community. Industry has built up on both sides.

The dominant plants for each of the three main sections are as follows:

Saltmarsh: cat-tails, California bulrush, smartweed.

Riparian: cottonwood, box elder, willow, elderberry, sycamore, California buckeye.

Fresh water marsh: Cat-tails, weeds, winter annual grasse, smilo grass, willows.

No rare or endangered species were observed.

Project # 141-01

Sally H. Ca

Creek: Coyote Creek

Dec 9, 11, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habi Qu
446+00 - 480+00	Lower Penitencia Ck - Curve N of Disposal (Dom. spp.: Cat-tails, California Bulrush, Smartweed, Poison Hemlock, weeds)	24, 32	S	B, A	G,
480+00 - 488+00	Curve N of Disposal - Footbridge (Dom spp.: Poison Hemlock, California Nettle, Cat-tail, Smartweed)	32	S	A	A
488+00 - 500+00	Footbridge - Curve So of Disposal (Dom spp.: California Box Elder, California nettle, Cat-tails, Coyote brush, Cottonwood, weeds)	20, 32	S	A	H
600+00 - 735+00	Highway 237 - Montague Expressway (Dom. spp.: Cottonwood, Box elder, Willows, Elderberry, walnuts, sycamore, California buckeye)	20	R	A	H
735+00 - 755+00	Montague - Kruse Dr. at Dado St. (Dom spp.: weeds, cattails, willows)	24	F, R	B	M,
755+00 - 779+20	Kruse Dr at Dado St - Charcot Ave (Dom spp.: weeds, willows)	24	F, R	B	M
780-00 - 793+00	Charcot Ave - O'toole Ave Bridge (Dom spp.: willows, cottonwood, coyote brush, cut-tails winter annual grasses, Russian thistle, poison hemlock)	24	F, R	B	M,
793+00 - 797+00	O'toole Ave. Bridge - End (Dom. spp.: cottonwood, willow, alder, smilo grass, box elder, weeds)	24	R	B, A	M,

Project #141-01

Sally Casey

Creek: Yerba Buena Creek Nov. 12, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habita Qual
0-30+00	San Felipe Rd- Private Bridge	32	R, W	A	N
	(Dom. species: live oak, holly-leaved cherry toyon)				
30+00 - 35+00	Private Bridge - Private Bridge	32	W	A	N
	(Dom sp: Eucalyptus, live oak, blackberry)				
35+00 - 46+00	Second Private Bridge - Villa Vista Rd	32	W	B	N
	(Dom. Sp: live oak, California bay, coyote brush, blackberry)				
46+00 - 80+00	Villa Vista Rd - Up Stream End	32	W	A	N
	(Dom Sp: live oak, willows, holly-leaved cherry, toyon, California bay)				

Project # 141-01

Sally Casey

Creek: Piedmont Creek Dec. 8, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Quali
0- 5+00	Berryessa Ck - Vista Way (Dom Pl: Grasses + Weeds)	24	g	o-c	V
5+00-16+00	Vista Way - Sinclair Frontage Rd (Dom Pl. Grasses + Weeds, Sweet Fennel, Russian thistle)	24	g	c	L-
16+00-19+00	Sinclair Frontage - E. side Hwy 680	4	—	—	—
19+00-20+00	E. side Hwy 680 - End	6	g	o	—

Project #141-01

Sally Casey

Creek: Tularcitos Creek Dec. 8, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Quali
0 - 1+00	Berryessa Ck - N. edge Paseo Refugio Bridge	8	G	0	—
1+00 - 25+00	Paseo Refugio Bridge - Tramway Dr	24	G	C	L
	(Dom Spp: Grasses, Water Cress,				
	Salt Grass, Dallis grass & Sweet Fennel)				
5+00 - 34+00	Tramway Dr. - Hillview Dr.	24	G	C	L
	(Dom Spp: Smartweed, Dallis grass,				
	Cat-tails, Barnyard grass)				
34+00 - 38+00	Hillview Dr - Freeway access Rd.	24	G	C	L
	(Dom Spp: Dallis grass, Cat-tail, winter				
	annual grasses, Curly dock				
8+00 - 40+00	Freeway access Rd - Mid Freeway	4	G	0	—

Sally Casey

Creek: Sierra Creek Dec. 9, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Quali
0-40+00	Berryessa Creek - Curve near Morrill ave & Sierraville Intersection (Dom. Spp: annual grasses, Dallis grass, Sweet Fennel, weeds)	24	G	C	L
40+00-~~60~~ 59+00	Curve at Morrill & Sierraville - Crater Lane (Dom. Spp.: sweet fennel, Dallis grass, winter annual grasses and weeds.)		G	C	L
59+00-70+00	Crater Lane — end Dom Spp: Dallis grass, winter annual grasses, weeds, ice plant		G	C-B	L

Project # 141-01

Sally Casey

Creek: Los Coches Creek Dec. 8, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Quali
0- 10+00	Berryessa Ck - Sinclair Frontage Rd	24	G	C	L-V
	(Dom. Spp: Winter annual grasses, water cress, Russian thistle and Bermuda grass)				
0+00 - ~~1?+00~~ 16+00	Sinclair Fr. Rd - E. side Hwy 680	4	G	O	—
~~1?+00~~ - ~~1?+00~~ 6+00 - 18+00	E. side 680 - ~~S. Pk Victoria~~ ~~Dempsey~~ Dempsey	24	G	O-C	V
	(Dom Spp: Dallis grass)				
8+00 - 21+00	Dempsey Rd - E. side Fiesta Plaza	4	G	O	—
21+00 - 24+00	E. Fiesta Plaza - Elevation dam	24	G	C	L
	(Dom Spp. Cattails, water cress, weeds, Russian thistle, Dallis grass)				
24+00 - 34+00	Elevation Dam - Carnegie Dr.	6	G	C-O	V
	(Dom Spp: Cat-tail, water cress)				
4+00 - 63+00	Carnegie Dr - Evans Rd	8	G	C	V
	(Dom Spp: winter annual grasses)				
63+00 - 68+00	Evans Rd - Piedmont Rd.	32	G	B	M
	(Dom ~~Plants~~ Spp: Willows, Hackberry, English walnut, Dallis grass)				
68+00 - 70+00	Piedmont Rd - End	32	G,R	B-C	M,
	(Dom spp: horticultural shrubs, sycamore, Willow, annual grasses)				

Water cress = 2 words

Project # 141-01

Sally Casey

Creek: Calera Creek

Dec. 9, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Qualit
0 - 1+50	Berryessa Ck - R.R	24, 10	S	C	L
	(Dom Spp. weeds, winter annual grasses)				
1+50 - 2+50	R.R.	4	S	O	—
2+50 - 7+50	R.R. - N. Milpitas Blvd.	6	S-G	C	✓
	(Dom spp: Water cress, Barnyardgrass				
7+50 - 8+50	N. Milpitas Blvd	4.	S-G	O	—
8+50 - 21+00	N. Milpitas - Arizona Dr.	24	G	C-O	✓
	(Dom spp: Winter annual grasses,				
~~21+50 - 30+00~~	water cress)				
21+50 - 30+00	Arizona Dr. - 8' Grade drop	24	G	C	✓
	(Milpitas High school)				
	(Dom. spp: water cress, winter annual				
	grasses, weeds)				
30+00 - 39+50	Grade drop - Escuela Parkway	30	G	C-B	L
	(Dom. spp: grasses)				
39+50 - 40+50	Escuela Pkwy				
40+50 - 52+00	Escuela Pkwy - earthen drop	30	G	C-B	L-M
	(Dom. spp: grasses, weeds)				
52+00 - 57+50	Earthen drop - Hillview Dr.	24	G	B	M-M
	(Dom spp: Elderberry, Blackberry, cottonwood,				
	almond)				
57+50 - 62+50	Hillview to Freeway (Hwy 680)	32	R	M, A	N, H
	(Dom spp: Cottonwood, california Buckeye, Willow,				
	poison oak, blackberry)				
62+50 - 67+00	Freeway (Hwy 680)	4			

Sally Casey

Project #141-01

Creek: Calera Creek cont'd

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habitat Quali
67+00 - 68+50	Break ~~in~~ between 680 + Pk Victoria	10	G	C	L
	(Dom. spp.: Grasses, water cress, curly dock, weeds.)				
68+50 - 6~~8~~9+00	N. Pk Victoria				
6~~8~~9+00 - 70+00	N. PK. Victoria	10	G	C	L
	(Dom spp: grasses, water cress)				

W. Stiles

Creek: Fowler Creek Dec 12, 1981

Station #	**Location**	**Channel Type**	**Habitat Type**	**Veg. Quantity**	**Habita Qual**
74+00 to 80+00	Farm road to end of trees. (calif. buckeye, valley oak, blue elderberry)	32	R,W	B	H
80+00 to 82+50	End of trees to end of brush (coyote brush, sagebrush, milk thistle)	32	G	B	G
82+50 to 90+00	End of brush to broken bridge. (rye grass, horehound, mugwort)	32	[illegible],G	C	L
91+00 to 93+00	Broken bridge to house (rye grass, mugwort)	32	W,G	C	L

Upper Silver Creek

From its confluence with Coyote Creek to the farm on Silver Creek Road, this stream has been channelized through and bordering residential areas. From the farm at 63+00 to the end it is a natural flowing brook mainly through grasslands and woodlands. Though spring fed and live in the natural areas, little water is found in the channelized areas. In the natural areas grazing is the main land use.

In the channelized area the dominant plants are weeds: annual grasses, weeds salt bush and Russian thistle. In the natural settings the dominant plants are Valley and Live Oak, California Bay, willows, cottonwoods and grasses. As this creek is near urban areas, all of the natural reaches are outstanding.

No rare or endangered species were encountered.

Creek: Upper Silver Creek Dec 22, 1981

Station #	Location	Channel Type	Habitat Type	Veg. Quantity	Habita Qua
00-23+00	Coyote Creek - Cottrell Dr. E. Curve	8	G	C	V
	Dom. Plants: Weeds, winter annual grasses, Cattails				
23+00-38+00	Cottrell Dr. E. Curve - Freeway Rt 101	8	G	C	V
	Dom Plants: Weeds only				
38+00-40+00	Freeway Rt 101				
40+00-48+00	Freeway - Yerba Buena Rd	8	G	B	M
	Dom. Plants: Salt Bush and Russian Thistle				
48+00-62+00	Yerba Buena Rd - Farm	8	G	C	L
	Dom. Plants: Weeds and Russian Thistle				
2+00-63+00	West 100' of Farm	16	G	B	M
	Dom Plants: Grasses				
63+00-74+00	Farm - Silver Creek Rd (1st crossing)	32	G	B	M
	Dom Plants: Grasses and weeds				
74+00-90+00	Silver Creek Rd 1st Xing - 2nd Crossing	32	R	A	H
	Dom. Spp. Valley Oaks, willows, cottonwoods, blackberries				
90+00-215+00	Silver Creek Rd 2nd Crossing - 100' W. of 3rd crossing	32	W	B	N
~~215+00-216+00~~	Dom Spp. Valley oaks, Live Oaks, grasses				
215+00-216+00	100' west of 3rd Silver Ck Rd Crossing - 3rd Rd Crossing	32	G	B	M
	Dom Spp. Grasses				
216+00-240+00	3rd Silver Ck Rd Crossing - 4th Silver Ck Rd Crossing	32	R	A	H
	Dom. Spp: Cottonwoods, willows, Live Oaks, Valley Oaks				
240+00-257+00	4th Silver Ck Rd Crossing - 5th Silver Ck Rd Crossing	32	W	A	H
	Dom. Spp: Live Oaks, Valley oaks, Poison oak				
257+00-280+00	5th Silver Ck Rd Crossing - 6th crossing at Sunset Ranch	32	R	A	H
	Dom Spp: Co. Bay, Live Oaks, Willows, Elderberry				

Creek: Upper Silver Creek

Station #	Location	Channel type	Habitat type	Veg. Quantity	Habita Qual
280+00-300+00	6th Silver Ck Rd Crossing at Sunset Ranch — 500' beyond Sunset Ranch house	32	R	A	H
	Dom Spp.: Bay, Live Oak, Willows, Elderberry				
00+00-315+00	500' beyond Ranch House - Open Grassland	32	G	B	N
	Dom Spp. Winter annual grasses				
315+00-330+00	End grassland to 330+00	32	R	A	H
	Dom. Spp. California bay, willows, elderberry				
330+00-382+30	Riparian to End	32	W	B	N
	Dom Spp. Live oak, annual grasses				

Upper Silver Creek

Areas of note:

- East side of Tuers: Black Locust 8-12 ~10' high
+ Farm 62+00-74+00: 2 lg cottonwoods, 1 huge beautiful Valley Oak
- Silver Creek Rd 74+00-94+00 Trash has been dumped.

Sally Carey

Fowler Creek   Dec 23, 1981

This creek originally ran over land now used for agricultur
In the first two thirds of the stream area there is no physical evidence of its existance. The upper third is a dry stream bed. A few years ago, the source water was diverted int collecting facilities.

The dominant plants are: live oak, elderberry, California buckeye, coyote brush, sagebrush and weeds.

No rare and endangered plants were observed along this creek.

Sally Casey

Creek: Fowler Creek

Dec. 23, 1981

Station #	**Location**	**Channel Type**	**Habitat Type**	**Veg. Quantity**	**Habitat Qualit**
00-62+50	Coyote Creek - Farm Rd	Flood Plain	G	C	L
	Dom Spp. Hayacreage-grains, Vineyard-grapes, Walnuts				
62+50-74+00	Farm Road - Walnut Grove	32	W	A	H
	Dom Spp. Live oaks, elderberry, weeds				
74+00-90+00	Walnut Grove - House (end)	32	W	A	H
	Dom Spp. California buckeye, coyote brush, sagebrush & wee				

Fowler Creek Dec 23, 1981

Noteworthy plants: 1 large sycamore at ~ 89+50.
live oaks 62+50 - 74+00

Negative: Trash in and near stream bed 62+50 - 90+00,